

they discovered a parchment protruding from the dead nobleman's pocket. When I returned and found Tom and this paper. being read by the capwaiting patiently before the pier glass. tain of the guards, disclosed the sup-I thought me of the court gown. posed embassador in his true colors-"Where is it?" he asked. those of a spy employed by the govern-I shook my head. ment of Bohemia And later the king "Ho, ho, Isstens! So you are no londrew from the sobbing Princess Barbara ger a pet," he jibbed, "even unable to the assertion that it was under the inborrow a little apparel." fluence of this English knave, and not I did not speak, but turned to the for any displeasure at her lover of Wasswardrobe and smiled. mark. that she had undertaken her little So poor Tom was forced to appear in trip in her coach his court suit of pale green silk, his old

"And now said the king, placing a hand on the shoulder of each. "I have much pleasure in informing you that in an hour from now a fete to your honor will begin. and that her majesty and her highness Princess Barbara desire your company in the quadrille."

Tom Beverlev, recking little the hair, "Now I will dream of anotherking's presence. fell upon me with his until I get it.' schoolboy's embrace. In the quarters set apart for the gen-

lemen of the guard the news of our

Then the grand quadrille ended. We leaned over the ladies' hands, and the usic ceased with a clash I saw little of the princess during the remainder of the evening, but the other ladies of the court were very kind and pretended not to recognize any of the other gentlemen. They were good enough to say that not my arm. but my manner of dancing, made plain my identity There was little rest for me when l returned. I watched the bright sun come in at the curtains and the shadows slide along the floor Thus I lay until high noon In the clear light of day how my freedom of the night appalled me! The fumes of the wine, the scent of her hair, had left my brain now; but. curse it. the memory of all this was still deep in my heart! Oh, princess. princess! Looking over at the corner of my chamber, where the tapestry took only a little of the light and the shadow of a pier glass fell. I could see her slight figure standing-the red brown hair all powdered as it had been in the dance. name. the gray eyes questioning, the pale face kind and queenlike

Flemish lace and his English sword.

He led off the queen and I the Prin-

cess Barbara in the opening quaarille. My partner's hand trembled in mine.

Our eyes met and held We seemed to

be gliding there alone And at one time.

in crossing, I sighed into her powdered

One of them had a song in memory of the slaying of Willis Howard. me between the curtains of the bed

and glared at one another, as if we had been parted for years I did not appear pen in hand, before the embassador limited space, this gave them little adthat day, but spent my time reading vantage the home letters and listening to Red Harding's stories Harry alcne had heard of my esca nade with Tom Beverley. and he wrote upon the subject at great length, be seeching me, for the love they bore me in the house of Isstens. to take care of my neck. Tears filled my eyes when l read my mother's note, and the little message from Marion. which was wondrous humble. The captain sent me a poem, most heroic, of his own composing, and they all prayed me to come back before Christmas Tom took Red Harding out with him, while 1 wrote many pages in re ply to all these. I think my letters must have been like the works of the arms poor poet who for money. wrote on husbandry, the church and state, mili tary matters and Latin prose and was forever verging on his one dear subject. we retreated, and the enemy forbore poetry, but nowhere mentioned it. So following did I write of this and that, ever think ing of the princess and tingeing my sentences with her: yet nowhere wrote her

posed How heartily we embraced and laughed

hounds

some unseen agency the candles were lit we had a much worse one, for we ing my side, I very humbly kissed her found ourselves in a trap of robbers and hand. Then, without speaking, I gave cutthroats, all garbed and armed like her back the silver hat buckle set with But instead of bending her head and

I know that my voice came huskily and that mr eyes pleaded that morn-

a knight of the Royal Order of Wasssentative here who will stand up and represent the taxpayers, the men who mark "And so honor comes when she is least have to pay these enormous sums ; am wanted. " thought I, and raised his royal I to stand alone in this case as in penhand to my lips without fervor

stared at the king with challenging eyes

he smote me sharply on the shoulder

the touch of proved steel I proclaim you

sion frauds? I hope not. "I want to find some man who will and up here and represent the mer

soldiers and gentlemen And the man rubies. who had led us here was not so far gone in drink as we had at first sup-There, in the narrow, richly appoint-

ed hall. occurred a woeful fight The inmates were two to our one, but happily. owing to broken furnitare and love of one so far above me

thief, who still held Barbara's buckle. cess Barbara.

In we went after him like a pack of sun crawled up the bluest of skies. But my fool heart was heavy I was lost in meditations not pleasant when there Then began an awful tripping across

each other's legs and overturning of came a soft rustling down the arbored tables, for the hall was pitch dark The path Turning, I beheld the princess, door slammed shut after the last yell- in a cloak of red cloth and gray fur, ing poet had scrambled in. For awhile nearing me unattended. As well as I we had a devil of a time, and when by could, with my crutches under my shoulders, I bowed. and upon her reach-

> looking at the returned trinket, she lifted her face and surveyed me with her and cried. "In the name of God and by gray eyes. Her glance was kind, and I immediately forgot all the brave vows I had made to dream no more of the

At the very first of it I lunged at the ing I laid bare my heart to the Prin-

"You are not surprised!" he said.

drawing up his red eyebrows. And yet she listened with no tinge "Yes, sire, I am surprised and hon ored beyond measure. I answered. only love-and pity Upon saying my He pinned the cross of the order on last word I turned to hobble away, but ny breast and then handed me a letter. But before I could open the sheet he snatched it back. saying. "It is from the princess. Sir What's-your-name.' I flushed crimson and replied "Very good. your majesty I have no desire to see your private correspondence.' crave pardon, but my pride is still iron mines, and the carpenter at the 'Come. come. my good Isstens, somewhat sore at being crossed in love by my embassador's secretary. I said nothing to this. "But remember. sir." he continued 'it touches nothing beyond my pride.' "And yet the thing remains hopeless, sire I am but the cadet And how does a poor sword weigh against a

escape from disgrace and death had set the little squad that had captured us boisterous with joy

The body servants were busy rushing about with decanters and glasses, and rollicking songs rang through the open docr

The whole 50 were there, and on our entrance they rose up and cheered

Some of the men were already dressed for the fete. One in red tights, with a three yard tail, and a green mask all askew on his face, made a merry devil After pledging a few glasses to the undying friendship of 51 gentlemen Tom said that he would come with me to my apartments to prepare for the evening

"A favor to ask of you. Isstens." he said.

I swore I would hook him down the moon with my rapier hilt if his desires were set that way

"Then borrow me one of Princess Barbara's court dresses, " he whispered.

I donned my finest suit and my dress sword and, leaving my friend lolling in the window. strutted forth to seek admittance to the princess With a huge bandage (a silk pillowcase) I made as much of my wounded arm as possible, thereby hoping to touch the hearts of all the ladies in waiting. It and my



Barbara gave me her hand and I touched my lips to it.

danger and adventures so lately passed worked like a charm, and I was received with cries of delighted welcome.

Barbara gave me her hand, and, as l touched my lips to it. a thrill from the pressure of her fingers stole into me

"I crave the opportunity to say a few words in your ear. princess, " I said, as of it, but instead I went whistling up though the safety of a kingdom hung on it

She smiled assent and blushed a little Then I thought of the flinty hearted Marion, and I sighed, with my eyes on her highness oval chin

"I have something of importance to discuss with the Cavalier Isstens," she whispered to the Countess Vcn Rassfel. The ladies arose and left the room.

"l await vour pleasure, sir," quoth the princess. I took the liberty, as I had done before. of seating myself near her.

She was attired in readiness for the dance, and I remembered that the first had ceased to pain six hours before.

Then I said "Princess, my friend, Tom Beverley, begs of you a court gown. that he may wear it tonight With a mask covering his face no one

"It is worth a king's game," I muttered. "and the king may hang me for it. but love a princess I do. so God help me!'

Then I cursed myself for a fool.

I might have lain all day, picturing the lady's face and figure and building toppling air castles, had not Tom burst into my room, looking for his sword. After the barber had done with me I ordered Hagart and rode out in the autumn forests The little wild flowers, the odorous ferns and the red and yellow leaves fluttering from the trees all laughed at the song in my heart And so I staid in the greenwood until sunset, listening to the scurrying of partridges, the whispering of the brown oaks and the occasional and faroff bugle calls in the city At the end of I found, on the frozen mold at the edge crutches were second only to the coffin. it I untied Hagart's bridle from a would forget the plincess and leave Cloburg for Flanders or any place where one might die fighting This I had vowed when leaving Marion The palace

thought came to me, and I laughed "Hagart." I said to my black horse

"I will stay, for the princess is so far above me, and I am her very humble cavalier ' And I should have been woefully cast down at the hopelessness the avenue that runs through the park For what is there that a man feels far beyond his reach when his best horse is under him and his tried sword swings

against his leg! After that I became so good a court ier that our embassador in Cleburg begged me to become his secretary So I stained my fingers with ink. drew double pay and wrote two letters a day very hadly The receptions at court were seldom without me, and, though the princess hat' he exclaimed the princess and I spoke little, our eyes teld many things

Tom Beverley was high in favor, and his majesty decorated him with the start the following morning on his rewhite star of the Order of the Royal turn journey to Blatenburg and as he my bandaged arm I sighed, though it Hunters One night, when Tom way had not seen enough of the taverns of ago he sent her a letter accusing her of the leg had been his only satisfaction. sitting over the wine with me. he said | Cloburg during the day Tom and I took | faithlessness. "Did you ever notice. Isstens, how him along after tea.

small a thing lies between the deed for which one man is hung and another and the air turned mild. The lieutenant The big guardsman blushed and clapcrowned?

When 1 finished, it was time for candles. Tom and Red Harding had not

returned, so I put on my cloak and hat and went down into the gardens. Some of the flowers were frozen in their beds and the air was chilly I looked at the tient oath to my lips Dropping back

royal wing of the palace, where it fronts along the crest of the terrace. The windows gleamed out, one by one. fighting in the dark. as the servants lit the candles. One casement glowed as a red rose before my eyes. I stood until all twilight failed-until the stars glinted and the finger, he shook his head till the wig moon swung up above the great woods settled over one ear where I had dreamed. Then I turned to go. and in my first step my foot sent something singing ing nor fencing till the inflammation along the gravel. I stooped and peered has gone. " he said fingers. After searching for some time mouths in sorrow, all feeling that

of the path, a silver buckle set with sapling, and, mounting, vowed that I rubies And the same I had so often but turned on the threshold and delivseen in the hunting hat of a certain | ered a last remark great lady that I held it fondly and went on toward my apartments in the will add to the inflammation. Cavalier Isstens.

Fumes of the Virginian leaf greeted found our old retainer and Tom Beverley on a chair and played a game of chance made great ado. Rufford seemed only comfortably seated. "What think you?' cried Tom

"This cavalier from Isstens has been man came in and found me alone making love to the princess "Truly.' said Red Harding "We met the lady in the garden and walked began to fidget in his chair and look at up and down and around, like priests me uneasily

after mass. many times together And her highness showed much interest in said gayly me and all my friends A great soldier

ever aims high Tom winked at me and asked what I held so closely in my fingers. The old lieutenant's eyes protruded

"My dear friend, were there never

It was Red Harding's intention to

swore roundly, thinking of muddy ped his heels together.

and spitted him clean through the side It was but the work of a moment to of anger nor surprise in her clear eyes, snatch the trinket from his twitching fingers and fasten it on my own breast

her voice softly recalled me. While engaging a burley, thick leg-"D'Artagan," she said-then, with ged rascal across a bench 1 saw with her face bowed in her hands, she sat the corner of my eye one of the poets shouting and stabbing at a man of upon the steps of the fountain and twice his size They spun about and wept

The little threads of sunlight through leaped back and on like crazy men and the cedar branches drew a halo about were both very drunk But presently her hair, and my heart was rent withthe scribe changed his rapier to his left in me, so that my voice deserted me in hand and brought down a cracking the anguish of it But presently, going broadsword cut on his antagonist's closer, I said head which ended that little passage of

"Princess, it is something only to have loved like this, and, before God, I Red Harding, after sorely wounding would never have returned to trouble his man, went back and kicked the you had I known the full, sweet story door until it fell ont into the street

Dragging one of the wounded with us of it. Then she arose and with trembling fingers fastened the silver buckle on After helping our wounded friend to my shoulder

"And now," she said, trying bravethe nearest inn we then returned to the ly to smile, "will you promise never to palace. thanking the saints for taking try to see me again and to leave the us out of so merry a scrape alive.

town if I tell you two things?" I awoke early on the morrow, and For answer I bowed my head and in getting out of bed felt a severe pain in my left knee I put my foot to the drove the tears back on to my soul.

"First," she said, "I will never floor and the agony brought an impamarry king nor prince, nor. God pity me, any man. and, second, you, Sir on to the bed I examined the painful

joint, and, to my disgust, found it Cadet. I love with my true heart! For a bright, bright second her lips puffed and blue. This is what came of pressed mine, her hair was over my eyes, and then she sped away down the After the doctor had looked at it and arbored path and left me leaning on my punched the swelling with his lean heedless crutches.

I staid in the garden for several hours. limping up and down the paths

"You must go on crutches for a week or staring away at the trees of the or two. my good sir, and no more ridpark like one dazed by a blow When Beverley came to have a dish

of tea with me in my room, I asked The gentlemen of the guard, who my knees and felt about with careful were clustered about, drew down their him to get a leave of absence from the burg

At first he looked at me in piteous The doctor stamped toward the door. amazement: then, leaning closer over the table, he put out his hand on my shoulder and said that he would come. "Wine or malt liquors in the system With many excuses, hinting at stat trouble and a message from the king.

I bade farewell to the court of Cloburg, He left amid a thunder of groans. Ten minutes after I sat with my foot and, though the ladies in waiting too pleased at my departure.

with Beverley and two of his fellows. I started on the journey at midday. and the decanters stood on the table. a week after our tryst at the dog foun-In the evening the big poet-guards tain Tom rode in the coach with me (my knee forbade the saddle) and a serv-After exchanging commonplaces he

ant rode alongside on Hagart Poor enough company I made all the first day, and Tom respected my si-"Pray part with it. my friend." I lence and spent his time between reading a book and staring from the win-"By the sword of St. Peter, how did dow But on the second day, toward evening, we heard a great rumpus ahead, and the coach came to a stand-For answer I passed him a tobacco still Tom got out to see what the matter was, and immediately two pistol shots rang on the frosty air and past After blowing out a few wreaths of the window went a man in a red cloak reeling in his saddle Tom returned, "Have you heard about the letter relating how our former acquaintance your king wrote to Princess Barbara ?' of the mountains had tried to hold us

up and how a pistol ball somewhere in "Some one told me that a few days After telling which he coolly returned to his reading of the book, the snow "How did the countess come to hear still melting on his boots

We reached Blatenburg in safety without further adventure. Instead of Inquirer.

crown ? "You forget.' he said, "that you were but now made knight of a great order

He gct ready to go against Bever ley's return, and, with his hat on, asked if I was still of the old, adventurous spirit

l answered that my sword was al ways at his service

"Then postpone your visit to Isstens and stand ready for further word from me. he said and bade me a friendly good night

When Beverley came in a little past midnight I told him of the change in my plans and something of what the term of service for so little wages. Go king had mentioned, and, last, of my to the departments of this government new honor

"Your king is a true gentleman, he exclaimed, "and, by heaven, I see into it a little."

"And will you share this unknown adventure with me?" I asked. "I would to God I could, Isstens, but loyalty to Rufford holds me out of it.' The king said nothing of it." I an-

swered Whereat he but shook his head and egan preparations for his night's rest

TO BE CONTINUED.

Got What He Called For.

The barroom of a well known hotel

was crowded with the thirsty the other evening, and the overworked servers of mixed drinks were beginning to grow a bit testy, when the door swung open and in walked one of those hardtacks who grow fat on bad whisky.

"I want a drink of the pizenest liquor In the lace," he said.

The bartender, weary from the concoction of hundreds of high balls and rickeys, languidly reached under the counter, and, drawing out a bottle of alcohol, ammonia and salt, used for cleaning copper work, set it before the human sponge, who poured himself a liberal drink and gulped down the nauseous stuff. His eyes bulged and a half suppressed sputter escaped from his lips, but he was game through and through. "Thanks," he said, as he paid his

check. "I always did like this hotel. You get here exactly what you call for.' And he escaped by the side door, still coughing and sputtering .- Philadelphia

who follow the plough down in the cotton rows and corn fields of the south. (Applause.) I want to find some man who will stand up here and represent the men who raise wheat and corn in the west, and I want to find some representative, some man on this floor, who will represent the blacksmith at the forge, the laborers in the factory, the men in the coal mines and bench, as well as the tax consumer and the tax eater-the salaried class-who are all getting more than they ought to now when you consider the ability of the taxpayer to meet these enormous demands. Why, Mr. Chairman, have never yet known a warrant to be issued to force a man into the government service, where you say he has to work so hard and gets so little pay for his service. (Laughter and applause.)

president of the United States down to

the humblest employee of the gov-

ernment, are the best paid people in

the world, and yet they are all crying out for an increase of salary, with but

few exceptions. Why, it seems to

me there is nobody upon the floor here

except the tax consumers, and they push their claims earnestly. I want to ask this question in all candor. Has

nobody a representative upon this floor

except the office-holder and govern-

ment employee? Have we all been

elected here to advocate the claims of

the salaried class? Important query

and more important the answer. Let

us see if we cannot find some repre-

"Why, sir, no corporation or business institution in the world can afford to pay such salaries as is paid by this great government to its employees, with so many privileges and so little labor.

"No, sir, there are always nine more standing at the door trying to get in for every one already in. There are hundreds and thousands of them outside anxious and eager to get in where these men are serving such a laborious today and you will find them running over each other, in each other's way, and if you want to do some service to the taxpayers, introduce a bill that would turn out one third and make the other two thirds do the work, and then you can reduce the expenses, and maybe raise the salaries a little bit. "What causes you to think that? but in the name of conscience stop this indecent haste in increasing salaries, where in many instances they are already too high.

"I want to say that I have no general criticism to make of the bill that has been brought in by the postoffice committee, except as to one or two items in connection with amounts to be paid railroads, and one or two others. I believe it is just, I believe it is right, because it is a service rendered all the people. Fourteen millions seems to be a large sum for free delivery in cities and towns; but when you extend the same privilege to the people in the country, I make no objecion. I took the position in the Fiftythird congress that the people in the country had as much right to free dedelivery of mail as the people in the cities, for they are the bone and sinew of the country. I then began a war to that end, and with others in the house, notably Mr. Williams, of Mississippi, and Mr. Moses, of Georgia, succeeded in that congress in getting an appropriation of \$20,000 for free delivery in the country to the men who work on the farms and in the work shops, in the fields and at the forge, and this was the beginning of the free rural delivery of any practical kind, which has already resulted in dissemi-

nating knowledge into the backwoods of the country home."

you know I had anything to say ?" he asked. pipe, knowing that the fashionable habit was strong upon him. "By heavens, it is the buckle I saw in white smoke he said

I shook my head

two buckles made alike?' I answered.

Outside we found the moon obscured of it?' I interrupted.